

school enrollment rate at 39 percent for boys and 3 percent for girls. In the current environment, the demand for education opportunities far outstrip supply. Schools run multiple shifts, and many classes meet outside with the barest minimum of basic material, teachers, and facilities.

This particular McGovern-Dole International Food Program is being implemented in 115 schools in the remote provinces of Badghis and Ghore in the western region of Afghanistan. In this area, out of a school-aged population of 60,000, only 23,000 students were enrolled in schools last year; and just some 3,400 were girls.

World Vision is providing 37,000 students with a monthly ration of wheat, rice, lentils and vegetable oil for attending school, which also serves as an incentive for poor Afghan families to send both their sons and their daughters to class. These commodity are provided by hard-working farmers in Washington State, California, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. In the most remote areas, World Vision is using donkey trains to transport the food to the schools.

In each of the 115 schools, World Vision trains community volunteers to help identify pressing needs and will provide all 37,000 students with a student kit including notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, shoes, a book bag, and a cloth wrap for girls so they are not excluded from education in conservative areas due to cultural taboos.

World Vision also works with community volunteers to make sure that the school is a proper learning environment for the children and will be supplying each school with chalkboards and chalk, desks, tables, cabinets, maps, books, water systems, and latrines.

World Vision is building nine schools over the course of the next year in the Jarward district, where there are only six schools covering just 4 percent of the total school population. While nine schools cannot address all of this need, it will allow another 3,600 students to attend classes. These schools will replace and greatly expand four temporary schools set up last year under UNICEF plastic tents. Five of these schools are being constructed with McGovern-Dole funding, and the other four are being built with private resources raised by World Vision.

World Vision is working with local councils so some of these schools will be set up exclusively for girls. World Vision's agronomists are also helping each school set up its own garden to raise cucumbers, tomatoes, eggplants, okra, onions, carrots, spinach, hot peppers, turnips and watermelon, which will complement the U.S.-grown commodities with the micronutrients that vegetables can supply. These garden projects also teach improved agricultural techniques to students and interested community members which they can use in their own family farming;

and they help the schools establish a microenterprise, selling the excess production and using the funds to defray the schools' cost.

World Vision is training 675 teachers in the new ministry of education curriculum, designed by UNICEF to replace the Taliban's restrictive system. It is also complementing teachers' meager salaries with food baskets so they can dedicate their full time to teaching instead of taking on jobs outside the schools.

This support comes at a critical time in Afghanistan's transition as the new government struggles to reestablish infrastructure in these remote areas.

Originally, World Vision's Afghanistan program was designed as a 2-year program; and in the second year it would have greatly expanded benefits to additional communities, students, and teachers. Unfortunately, President Bush severely cut funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program, and this Congress failed to protect the program in the appropriations process. Sadly, many projects have been cut back to 1 year.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the leadership of this House to significantly increase funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program so its many worthy projects like the World Vision program in Afghanistan can reach even more needy children and communities.

IRAQ AND THE WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in an effort to dispel continuing myths which have been propagated with regard to the role of Iraq in the larger war on terrorism. While many Democrat Members have worked hard to promote these myths, it is time that we who know and understand the truth come forward to fully explain it.

Let me be perfectly clear. The war against Iraq is a central component in the global fight against terrorism. The Hussein regime's support for terrorism, within and outside of its borders, its appetite for the world's most dangerous weapons, and its openly declared hostility to the United States were a combination that was a gathering and growing danger to our country.

In light of the September 11 terrorist attacks, ending this regime was central to the war on terrorism and central to ensuring that more attacks on American soil, like the September 11 attacks and the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, never occur again.

□ 1400

The Hussein regime established significant and numerous ties with terrorist organizations like al Qaeda for over a decade prior to September 11, 2001. This included the provision of

training, financing and sanctuary. In fact, the Iraqi foreign minister admitted in March 2003 that Iraqi funds were sent to families of Palestinian suicide bombers who attacked and killed innocent Israeli citizens, and also 12 Americans in Israel in 2003. Even the Clinton Administration agreed and repeatedly asserted connections between al Qaeda and Iraq, and explicitly said that Hussein posed a threat to the United States itself.

By ending the Hussein regime, the United States has taken away yet another incubator of terrorism. Terrorist groups benefited for years from support of Saddam Hussein and his regime. Further, by acting decisively in Iraq, the United States has sent very strong signals to other nations that have been or could be terrorist sympathizers. Had the United States not acted in Iraq, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi would likely not have declared his weapons programs, submitted to international inspections and voluntarily dismantled its programs. In addition, it is very likely that United States action in Iraq caused Iran to open its nuclear facilities for international inspection and suspend its uranium enrichment activities.

The list goes on and on, from Syria to North Korea. We are seeing changes in the way these nations deal with terrorism because of our actions in Iraq.

Those who like to spread misconceptions and myths often point to the fact that no weapons of mass destruction have yet been found in post-war Iraq. They say the President and his administration deceived the American people and the international community.

However, David Kay, our chief weapons inspector, has stated repeatedly that it was prudent to attack Iraq, and that as the inspection process continues, as it does, we will find that Iraq was more dangerous than we actually understood at the time because the regime was collapsing and Iraq was a country that had capabilities to develop weapons of mass destruction that terrorist groups have sought repeatedly.

Had the Hussein regime lost control completely, Iraq would have become a breeding ground for international terrorism, much like Afghanistan was under the Taliban, the only difference being that Iraq had the wealth and the resources necessary to build weapons that could have been directly threatening to the United States and our allies.

Further, not only the United States, but the French, British, Germans and the United Nations all thought Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction before the United States intervened.

There is also the myth that the United States and our allies intervened in Iraq solely based only evidence of weapons of mass destruction. This is not true. Again, according to David Kay, Iraq clearly was in violation of United Nations Resolution 1441. This resolution required Iraq to come clean and report on all of its activities.

To date, hundreds of cases have been found that show Iraq was engaged in activities that were prohibited under that resolution and under the initial resolution, 687.

Our case for war was and remains clear. The majority of the American people understand that, the House of Representatives understood that when this body agreed in the 107th Congress by passing H.J. Res. 114 by a vote of 296 to 133, and our allies around the world understood that and continue to share our resolve.

Clearly, there are those Democrat candidates who are using this election year for partisan politics to cloud the truth. These tactics will ultimately fail because we all understand that the United States is safer today and our citizens are far less likely to be victims of domestic terrorist attack because we have removed the Hussein regime and are on the way to helping establish and ally in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to remember that who made this security possible. The thousands of American sailors, soldiers and airmen who drove the once powerful dictator to cower in a hole are owed the praise of the entire Nation.

I would ask that all Americans take a moment to think about our friends, sons, daughters, mothers and fathers who are serving proudly in Iraq and around the world as part of the global war on terrorism. They are ensuring our safety and working hard to make sure that another day like September 11 never happens again. To Members of our armed services, I say thank you. I would also remind them that no matter what they hear to the contrary from Democrat politicians, their actions in Iraq are justified and necessary.

NEED FOR CONCERN OVER JOB LOSS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, as has been noted here on the floor earlier by my colleague the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the President came to Ohio yesterday. It was his 15th visit since being elected, or since ascending to the presidency.

The fact is that he should come to Ohio, because Ohio is a suffering State. Ohio has lost approximately 300,000 jobs since the President has been in office. About 160,000 of those jobs have been good paying manufacturing jobs, living wage jobs, jobs with good benefits. And, quite frankly, there is no recovery in Ohio as I stand here in this Chamber today. The recovery may be happening on Wall Street, it may be happening in other States, but the recovery has not yet come to Ohio. So I think the President should be concerned.

Just yesterday in this Chamber, a group of high school students from my

district, from Jefferson County, were visiting here in the Nation's Capital, and during the question and answer session that I had with them in this Chamber, a high school student asked me what I could say to those who had worked at Weirton Steel, those who had retired, had been a part of this community and of this company, and are now being told that their health benefits are no longer there for them, that their pensions are being reduced.

Quite frankly, it is difficult to answer a question like that coming from one of my constituents, because the sad, sad fact is, there are good citizens, law-abiding, patriotic Americans, who have worked all their lives and are now finding themselves in the most difficult circumstances. They may be in their mid-fifties, with major health problems, only to find that they are no longer covered with health insurance.

So we need to focus on Ohio, and the President needs to be thinking about job creation. But that is why I am so disappointed in the President's recently published economic report to the Nation. In that report there is this sentence: "If a good or a service can be produced at lower cost in another country, it makes sense to import that product rather than to produce it domestically."

Now, the fact is that nearly every job in this country can probably be performed at lower cost in another country. The fact is that the Chinese and the Indians, the Vietnamese, those from Australia, they are doing the producing and they are taking jobs from this country. As is the case in Mexico that I visited a couple months ago, paying \$38 a week, an American company paying \$38 a week for 9½ hour days, well, of course they can produce it at lower cost there. But the last thing we need is for the President to indicate that this is a good thing.

That economic report was issued under President Bush's signature, so he is responsible for that conclusion, that statement, "if a good or a service can be produced at a lower cost in another country, it makes sense to produce it there, rather than to produce it domestically."

But what do you say, what do you say, Mr. President, to the unemployed steelworkers, to those along the Ohio River, on both the West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio portions of that river, whose jobs depend on producing china and pottery, these jobs that are being threatened by imports from China, when your administration is wanting to reduce or eliminate the current tariffs of 28 percent? What do you say to them?

Of course you can make a plate cheaper in China, if you are going to pay pennies an hour or dollars a week, but that does not make it right. We need a President who is willing to stand up for American jobs, American workers, American communities and American industries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the Executive Branch.

PRESIDENT'S GRAND STRATEGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as Paul Harvey says on his radio show, now for the rest of the story.

It is interesting, many of the Democrats have talked about job loss in America, but they do not mention the fact that trade has actually brought jobs into America. In Ohio, the Honda plant now paying high wages for its employees assembling Honda automobiles. In South Carolina, I know the Democratic governor was very instrumental in getting BMW and other companies to come to their State to create jobs for their citizens, high-wage, high-paying jobs.

You can look at one-half of the spectrum and say we have real problems. We are trying to find employment for every American. But they seem to ignore, they seem to ignore the fact that trade has brought jobs to this country, good jobs to communities that were desperately in need of those jobs.

This morning in a 1-minute, I was extraordinarily critical, rightfully so, of the Democratic candidate for the presidency. I am not allowed under House rules, I was admonished today, for using the name of a Senator, so most of us know who I am talking about.

But the word and phrase used yesterday on an open mike was that this administration is corrupt and is lying. That is the charge by the Democratic nominee for President about the sitting President of the United States of America. I called it this morning despicable and disgraceful, and I stick by that terminology, because that is the truth.

Now, look at who they are talking about. We are talking really about Iraq, because they keep using that as the reason they are calling this President a liar. They are saying Iraq is the reason he should be called these derisive terms, which I believe are disrespectful for any sitting chief executive President of the United States.

So what does that say ultimately, that we should not have done anything in Iraq, we should not have gone to Iraq, we should not have dealt with Iraq? That is their conclusion.

Well, today in the New York Times, "Saddam team skimmed billions in aid projects. Cash in suitcase."

In its final years in power, Saddam Hussein's government systemically extracted billions of dollars in kickbacks from companies doing business with Iraq, funneling most of the illicit funds through a network of foreign bank accounts in violation of the UN treaties.